

NEWS OF THE STATE CAPITAL

INQUIRY INTO VARIOUS PURCHASES FOR THE STATE PENITENTIARY.

COMPETITIVE BIDDING OPPOSED

Senate Committee is Making Investigation of Prices for Its Supplies
—Particularly Khaki Cloth and Coffee.

That the state benefits by reason of the fact that state warrants are now equivalent to cash and discounts can be secured on purchase of goods, where a year ago many concerns would not sell supplies to the state because these firms would have to wait indefinitely for their money; and that the penitentiary at McAlester is being maintained at a less per capita cost than any other prison in the United States, were statements for the benefit of the senate committee in the investigation of methods of the board of affairs.

Warden R. W. Dick of the state penitentiary was questioned regarding the purchase of khaki cloth. Members of the board of affairs stated that in making the order for the goods they had acted on the recommendation of Warden Dick and his storekeeper, as to price and the quality of the goods. Mr. Dick told the committee that he personally knew nothing as to whether the price was right relative to the kind of goods ordered, that he, too, depended on his storekeeper; that the price furnished the board of affairs was simply done in an advisory way and they could have changed it had they desired to do so.

Warden Dick's Explanation.

He also said in answer to a question that the board could ignore the recommendations regarding supplies and purchase what it wished, but that he might refuse to approve the claim for the same when the goods came to him. Members of the board said that in some instances they were guided greatly by recommendations from heads of institutions and in some instances felt they were justified in acting on the suggestions, else when it came to approving claims the heads of institutions would not do it.

Warden Dick stated that when the goods were received his storekeeper called his attention to the quality and said they were off weight. The matter was reported to the board of affairs immediately and the claim held up. Mr. Dick said that he notified the company sending the goods and it volunteered to make a reduction in price. He approved the claim but asked the board of affairs to look more closely into the matter. The latter did and a further reduction was secured. He said that even now he did not know if they were paying too much for the goods, but that after having tried the cloth it appeared to him that after all reductions had been made from the original price it was probably worth what it cost.

That the whole system of competitive bidding on supplies for the state institutions is wrong and not conducive to the best interests of the state was the statement of Warden Dick. He cited a number of instances to bear out his contention, and said that if the board of affairs could go into the open market and buy supplies like the wholesale houses there would be a great saving and the best goods could always be secured.

Investigating Khaki Purchase.

Chairman Thomas of the committee asked Secretary Howard of the board of affairs if any correspondence had been had with army headquarters as

to the price paid by the United States for the army khaki. Howard stated that he had not. He did say, however, that he had understood that T. C. Beeler, once an employee of the board, had on his own personal responsibility sent a telegram to Congressman McGuire to secure information regarding the price the war department paid for it, but that he did not know what the result was, as Beeler was doing it in a personal way and not for nor through the board of affairs.

A letter from the Falls City Clothing company received by the board of affairs and read to the committee indicated that the clothing company believes there is somebody egging on the investigation of the khaki transaction, and volunteered the depositions of every one of the company as to prices and the details. The company also wants to know who it is, if any one, interested in having the investigation made, and that if it is an attempt on the part of any jobber of wholesaler they want to know who it is as they will take some action in the matter later.

Regarding the purchase of the khaki cloth, W. W. Brown, clerk of the board, said that a sample of the cloth had been submitted with the recommendation and requisition of Warden Dick of the penitentiary. It was stated that the sample of the cloth was taken by T. C. Beeler, formerly employed by the board, and that the sample had not been returned.

In reference to the matter of buying a certain bill of coffee, which was inquired about Secretary Howard of the board said that in the fall of 1911 the board was asked to buy some coffee and got a price of 19 cents. Later, however, when the coffee was actually purchased the price had advanced to 23 cents, and that explained the difference between the two prices. The committee asked for the expense accounts of members of the board of affairs for the past six months.

Echo of Osage Liquor Trouble.

Robert G. Valentine, who recently resigned as commissioner of Indian affairs, was censured by the committee on expenditures in the interior department at Washington last week, after an investigation of charges against him.

The committee's report stated that Mr. Valentine deliberately violated the civil service laws, caused improper expenditure of public funds, precipitated the removal of the general superintendent of logging in the Indian service on false and groundless rumors and was guilty of criminal violation of the law, introducing and dispensing of liquor on an Indian reservation.

The committee report recited the charges that led to the discharge of Valentine by introducing liquor on the Osage lands in Oklahoma, "an affront to the law he was sworn to enforce," as a corollary to the case of James Y. Hamilton, who was superintendent of the Standing Rock reservation and was charged with drinking.

Committee Ready to Open Hearing

The senate committee which is to investigate the official conduct of Lon Frame, Ben W. Riley and John B. Doolin, assembled in Oklahoma City and held an executive session at the Lee-Huckins hotel, at which there was considerable discussion as to the method to be pursued in conducting the examination.

An organization of the committee was affected. Senator Thomas of Lawton, is chairman and will preside at the public hearings, which will be held at the assembly room of the Chamber of Commerce. Senator Franklin was made secretary.

The conduct of the office of Lon Frame of the state board of affairs will be taken up first. It is expected that this will take several days and that the other officials to be investigated will not be brought before the committee before next week.

India Temple For Legislature

The state board of affairs, after considering the question of quarters for the legislature for several weeks, finally decided to accept the proposition offered by the owners of India Temple and closed contracts for the rental of that building during the session of the fourth legislature, which will be convened January 7.

The rental of the two top floors of the building for the ninety days of the session is \$1,608, with a provision that the legislature may occupy any additional offices it needs on the second floor of the building at a rental of \$12 per month for each room so occupied. It also is provided that the time may be extended as much as necessary at the same rental and that any special session of that legislature may occupy the quarters.

The state also undertakes to make the necessary changes in the building. The partitions in the third and fourth floors, where the two branches are to meet and where committee rooms must be provided, are to be

taken out and changed at the expense of the state; and at the end of the session, are to be restored in their original form by the state.

The Oklahoma Fire Insurance company, owners of the building, guarantee to the state the use of the building for such time as may be desired and the free and unobstructed use of the lobby, with an entrance on Second street.

It is understood that work on the changes to the building will be started at once, as it will be necessary to rush the work to have the building ready for the opening session.

Comparison of Express Rates.

An interesting comparison is made between express rates put in force by the interstate commerce commission and those proposed by the Oklahoma corporation commission more than a year ago. Taking one month's business, that of August last, the commission has figured out rates based upon the schedule made by the interstate commerce commission in making its recent order.



Song for the Year's End By Wilbur D. Nesbit.

The sands that count the year are low within
the upper glass,
They slip away, these little years, so swiftly
do they pass;
They flit like shadows to and fro the longer
we may live—
But, ah, they take no more from us than they
may freely give!
They take the song, mayhap, but leave the
echoes sweet that hum—
The year is dying, but there is another year
to come.

Then why gaze at the trickling sand with
heavy sigh and frown?
Turn it down! Turn it down!
There are smiles and laughter waiting when
the other joys come from.
Turn it down! Turn it down!
There's another year to come.

Another year is coming—now its hailing call
we hear—
With golden smiles to pay us for each jewel
of a tear,
With clover nodding in the rain and dew upon
the rose,
With silver store of moonlight, and with
ivory of snows,
With tilting laughter for the lips that long
time have been dumb—
The year is dying, but there is another year
to come.

Why hold the glass and watch the sand with
gloomy sigh and frown?
Turn it down! Turn it down!
The melodies of joys to be already throb and
thrum—
Turn it down! Turn it down!
There's another year to come.

It is the twilight of the year—the sands are
almost gone;
But turn the glass and wait to see the glory
of the dawn,
And wait to hear the mellow chord that
pulses with each word
That will build up the coming song—the song
you've never heard.
Why brood above the days now gone, and
seek to find the sum
Of bitterness and happiness? Another year's
to come.

So turn the glass and start anew the current
golden brown—
Turn it down! Turn it down!
There are light and laughter lurking where
the other joys came from.
Turn it down! Turn it down!
There's another year to come.



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Tree Gone Mad.

Nature in the tropics, left to herself, is harsh, aggressive, savage; looks as though she wanted to hang you with her dangling ropes or impale you on her thorns, or engulf you in her ranks of gigantic ferns. Her mood is never as placid and sane as in the north. There is a tree in the Hawaiian woods that suggests a tree gone mad. It is called the hau-tree. It lies down, squirms and wriggles all over the ground like a wounded snake; it gets up, and then takes to earth again. Now it wants to be a vine, now it wants to be a tree. It throws somersaults, it makes itself into loops and rings, it rolls, it reaches, it doubles upon itself. Altogether it is the craziest vegetable growth I

ever saw. Where you can get it up off the ground and let it perform its antics on a broad skeleton framework, it makes a cover that no sunbeam can penetrate, and forms a living roof to the most charming verandas of lanais, as they are called in the islands—that one can wish to see. From "Holidays in Hawaii," by John Burroughs in the Century.

THE NEW YEAR CHILD.

Who comes dancing over the snow,
His soft little feet all bare and rosy?
Open the door, though the wild winds
blow,
Take the child in and make him cozy.
Take him in and make him cozy.
He is the wonderful New Year,
—Stanh Mulek Oram.

CANADA WEEK IN CHICAGO

CANADIAN EXHIBITS AT LIVE STOCK AND LAND SHOWS CENTER OF ATTRACTION.

The hats were doffed to Canada during the two weeks of the Land Show and the week of the Live Stock Show at Chicago. Willing to display its goods, anxious to let the people of the central states know what could be produced on Canadian farm lands, and the quality of the article, Hon. Dr. Roche, minister of the interior of Canada, directed that sufficient space be secured at the United States Land Show, recently held, to give some adequate idea of the field resources of western Canada. Those in charge had splendid location, and installed one of the most attractive grain and grass exhibits ever seen anywhere. Thousands, anxious to get "back to the land," saw the exhibit, saw wheat that weighed 68 pounds to the measured bushel, oats that went 48 and barley that tipped the scales at 55 pounds. The clover, the alfalfa, the wild pea vine and vetch, the rye grass, the red-top and many other succulent and nutritious varieties of wild grasses demanded and deserved from their prominence and quality the attention they received. The grain in the straw, bright in color, and carrying heads that gave evidence of the truth of the statements of Mr. W. J. White of Ottawa, and his attendants, that the wheat would average 28 to 35 bushels and over per acre, the oats 55 to 105 bushels, the flax 12 to 20 bushels, were strongly in evidence, and arranged with artistic taste on the walls. The vegetable exhibit was a surprise to the visitors. Potatoes, turnips, cabbage—in fact, all of it proved that not only in grains was western Canada prominent, but in vegetables it could successfully compete with the world.

One of the unique and successful features of the exhibit was the successful and systematic daily distribution of bread made from Canadian flour. It was a treat to those who got it. Canadian butter, Canadian cheese and Canadian honey helped to complete an exhibit that revealed in a splendid way the great resources of a country in which so many Americans have made their home.

A feature of the exhibit was the placards, announcing the several recent successes of Canadian farm produce and live stock in strong competition with exhibits from other countries. There was posted the Leager Wheeler championship prize for Marquis wheat grown at Rosneath in 1911, beating the world. Then I. Holmes of Cardston entered the competitive field at Lethbridge Dry Farming Congress, and won the wheat championship of 1912, beating Mr. Wheeler with the same variety of wheat. Hill & Sons of Lloydminster, Saskatchewan, in 1911 won the Colorado silver trophy for best oats grown, competed for in a big competition at Columbus, Ohio, in 1911. The produce of British Columbia at the New York Land Show in 1911 carried off the world's championship for potatoes, and incidentally won a \$1,000 silver trophy, and then, but a few days ago, the same province carried off the world's prize for apples at the Horticultural Show in London, England.

But that was not all. These Canadians, who had the temerity to state that corn was not the only feed for finishing high-grade beef cattle, entered for the fat steer championship at the Live Stock Show in Chicago a polled Angus—"Glencarnock Victor." Nearly 300 entries were in the field. "Glencarnock Victor" didn't know a kernel of corn from a Brazilian walnut. There were Iowa, Illinois, Nebraska, Kansas, Minnesota, Wisconsin and their corn-fed article, determined to win, bound to beat this black animal from the north, and his "nothing but prairie grass, oats and barley feed," as his owner proudly stated, but they didn't. Canada and McGregor & Sons, with their "Glencarnock Victor," won, and today the swiftness of America is eating of his steaks and roasts—the champion steer of the world.

But once more the herd of cattle that won the Sweepstakes at the same show was bred and owned by the owners of "Glencarnock Victor," fed only on prairie grass, oats and barley, near Brandon, Manitoba. The royal reception given to Mr. McGregor on his return to his home town was well deserved.

Omission must not be made of the wonderful and beautiful display of apples made by British Columbia, occupying a full half section of the great Land Show. This was in personal charge of Mr. W. E. Scott, deputy minister of agriculture for that province, who was not only a host to those who visited the exhibit, but was also an encyclopedia of information regarding the resources of that country. With 200,000 Americans going to western Canada this year, it is pleasing to know that so many from this side of the line can participate in the honors coming to that new country.—Advertisement.